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CATTLE FEEDING SITUATION NOVEMBER 1, 1931.

The demand for stocker and feeder cattle tended to weaken further during October and as a result the movement of such cattle into the Corn Belt States during that month was relatively small although prices were weak and declining during most of the month. The estimated number of stockers and feeders inspected through markets shipped into the Corn Belt States in October this year was 13 per cent smaller than in October last year and 11 per cent below the 5-year October average and was probably the smallest for the month in 10 years. The small shipments in October reduced the total shipments into the Corn Belt States for the 4 months, July to October, this year below the total of last year. The number this year was 2 per cent smaller than last year and 9 per cent smaller than the 5-year average for this period.

The smaller shipments in October this year compared with last were due to the decreased movement into the states west of the Mississippi River. Shipments into nearly all of thesestates were below last year with the largest decreases in the states west of the Missouri. The total shipments into these states for the 4 months July to October was the second smallest for the period in 13 years. Shipments into the states east of the Mississippi were larger in October this year than last and the largest for the month in six years. The shipments into these states for the four months July to October were nearly a third larger than the small shipments of last year and the largest for the period in five years.

Reports from the feeding areas in the Western states indicate that the total number of cattle fed in these states as a whole for market this coming winter will be somewhat smaller than last winter. There will probably be some increase in the Pacific Coast states, a decrease in the Intermountain states and a decrease in the Rocky Mountain states due to the smaller number fed in Colorado. A considerable increase is reported from Texas in the number of cattle to be fed there for market this winter. The movement of feeder cattle into the Lancaster area of Pennsylvania and Maryland to the end of October this year was nearly 85 per cent larger than the small movement to the same date last year.

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